

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Nakarani for his time and attention in the personal interview held on June 25, 2002. The comments of the Examiner are incorporated into this Reply.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-16 are pending in the above-identified application. No claims have been canceled or added. Claim 1 has been amended to define the percentage of the multilayer film that is comprised of the inner layer. Support is found at page 12, lines 22-23 of the specification. No new matter has been added by the above claim amendment. In addition, no new issues have been raised. The amendment to claim 1 is in response to the enablement rejection and not to overcome a prior art rejection. No new prior art search is required by the above claim amendment.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 1-16 as not enabled by the specification. The Examiner contends that essential elements of the invention are not recited in the claims. Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Applicants submit that the invention is fully disclosed in the specification and in the claims. Applicants have amended the claims

to recite that the inner layer comprises from 20 to 90% of the entire multilayer film. This is also disclosed in the specification at page 12. The thickness of the inner layer imparts properties on the film, which allow the film to have a greater tear strength in the machine direction than in the transverse direction.

Applicants demonstrated for the Examiner the phenomena of the present invention having a tear strength that is greater in the machine direction than in the transverse direction in the interview. The Examiner agreed that the sample of the present invention did, in fact, have the claimed properties. Applicants address the Examiner's concern regarding full disclosure of the invention by amending the claims as recited above. The essential features of the invention are recited in the claims and supported by the specification.

Conclusion

As Applicants have addressed and overcome all rejections, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for an extension of two (2) months to October 26, 2002 for the period in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$400.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  _____
Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

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ADM/KJR/jao
2185-0382P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

(Rev. 02/20/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 is amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A multilayer film comprising two outer layers and at least one inner layer interposed between the outer layers, wherein the inner layer is from 20 to 90% of the thickness of the multilayer film, and wherein the multilayer film:

- (i) is uniaxially oriented in a machine direction;
- (ii) comprises an olefinic resin; and
- (iii) has (a) a tear strength in a machine direction of not less than about 30 kg/cm, and (b) a tensile breaking point elongation in a machine direction of not more than about 150%.